Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1- 17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing *Candida* infection, comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a biological sample from a subject at risk of, or suspected to be suffering from, *Candida* infection;

b) preparing a ~~an antigen~~ composition comprising antigen consisting of a soluble cytoplasmic antigen preparation which is mannose depleted and which ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of *Candida* antigens of molecular weights 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa ~~for detecting antibodies to *Candida* of molecular weights 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa~~;

c) contacting said antigen composition with said biological sample; and

d) using a detection system to determine if antibodies from the biological sample are bound to said antigen composition.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the antigen composition further comprises one or more antigens selected from the group consisting of cell wall and enolase antigen.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein step d) is a detection system selected from the group consisting of enzyme-linked immunoassay (ELISA or EIA), biligand binding (sandwich technique), fluorometric assay, chemiluminescent assay, radialimmunodiffusion and radioimmunoassay (RIA).

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein step d) is by ELISA or chemiluminescent assay.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of binding the antigen composition to a solid phase either by adsorptive binding, covalent binding, or

via a ligand already bound to the solid phase.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of using secondary labeled antibodies to detect the antibodies to *Candida* present in the biological samples.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of labeling the secondary antibodies with a label selected from the group consisting of fluorescent dye, radioisotope, enzyme, or combinations thereof.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the secondary antibody is labeled via bound ligands.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein detection in the detection system is selected from the group consisting of colour development, chemiluminescence, fluorescence, radioactivity, or combinations thereof.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of performing the detection of antibodies by a method selected from the group consisting of qualitative detection, quantitative detection, or combination thereof.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of directly labeling the secondary antibody.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of indirectly labeling the secondary antibody.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the antigen composition is either immobilized on an inert surface, embedded in a gel, or conjugated to a molecule.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the molecule imparts colour, fluorescence or radioactivity to the antigen.

32. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of bone marrow, plasma, spinal fluid, lymph fluid, skin, tears,

saliva, milk, blood, serum, blood cells, ~~tumours~~ tumors and organs.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the skin consists of external sections selected from the group consisting of respiratory, intestinal, and genitourinary tracts.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the biological sample is serum.

35. (Currently amended) A kit when used for detecting the presence or absence of a *Candida* antibody in a biological sample, comprising:

a). a biological sample collection device;

b). a ~~an antigen~~ composition comprising antigen consisting of a soluble cytoplasmic antigen preparation which is mannose depleted and which consists essentially of ~~comprises~~ antigens for detecting antibodies to *Candida* of molecular weights 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa;

c). means for detecting reaction between the antibody in the sample and antigen composition.

36. (Previously presented) A kit according to claim 33, further comprising buffering agents and ionic salts.

37. (Currently amended) A ~~An antigen~~ composition comprising antigen consisting of a soluble cytoplasmic antigen preparation which is mannose depleted and which consists essentially of ~~comprises~~ antigens for detecting antibodies to *Candida* of molecular weights 55 kDa, 30 kDa and 20 kDa.